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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Letter dated 23 April 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith*, the letter of 23 April 1999, addressed by the Ambassador, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office in Geneva to Mrs. Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. I would like to ask you to have it published as an official document of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 9.

(signed) Branko BRANKOVIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* The annex is reproduced as received in the language of submission only.

Geneva, 23 April 1999

Mrs. Ogata,

I am addressing you upon instruction of His Excellency, Mr. Zivadin Jovanovic, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the dramatic evolution of the situation in the FR of Yugoslavia as a result of the barbarian bombardment by NATO forces.

I would like to inform you and to draw your attention that refugee camps in Vojvodina, central Serbia and Kosovo and Metohija (Kula, Kursumlija, etc.) are being attacked ever more frequently by NATO aggressors.

In addition to the killing of 75 and wounding of 25 civilians, ethnic Albanians who were returning to their homes, another crime occurred on 21 April in Djakovica. Namely, on that very day, NATO aggressors attacked with several missiles the refugee camp accommodating Serbian refugees from Knin, killing 5 refugees, amongst which 2 children, and injuring 6 refugees.

For several days already , NATO forces are attacking only civilian facilities, including centers for supply of the Yugoslav Red Cross and of the Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia who are providing humanitarian relief. Taking into account the fact that bridges, railways and roads have been uninterruptedly attacked by NATO forces from the very onset of the aggression, the supply of refugee camps with basic humanitarian relief and the securing of humanitarian relief to the ever increasing number of newly arrived displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija is being seriously endangered.

The Government of the FR of Yugoslavia expects from you to condemn in the strongest terms the attacks perpetrated on refugee camps and supply centers of the Yugoslav Red Cross and Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia. These attacks represent a crime against humanity. Their victims are refugees who were driven to leave their homes in Croatia several years ago as a result of brutal force of Croatian soldatesque. These refugees are once again subjected to genocide.

Please accept, Mrs. Ogata, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Branko Brankovic
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Her Excellency
Mrs. Sadako OGATA
UN High Commissioner for Refugees
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